

·I 23·

A GREAT DESCENT TO THE PROVINCE OF MIEN \neq MARCO POLO
P for his armies, though before he had had none for the army. In such way goes this battle
FB FB and this king was defeated by the wisdom and skill of the Tartars as you have heard and can
R understand. This days work was the cause of the great Kaan winning all the lands of the king
of Bangala & Mien, and making them subject to his rule.

·I 24·

HOW ONE GOES DOWN A GREAT DESCENT. When one leaves this province
R P of Çardandan¹ of which I have told you above, then one finds and begins
VA to go down by a very great descent. For you may know quite truly that
FB one goes riding quite two days marches and a half on the decline. And in all these
FB R two days [57b] marches and a half descent there is no dwelling and nothing which does
VA P to mention except only that I tell you that in one place there is a great and broad
VA P plain open space where a great fair and market is held. For all the men from the great
L R mountains of that country round about on every side come down to that open space
FB R on so many stated days and find there their market, that is three days a week; and
FB they used to change gold with silver, for they have much of it, and give one saggio of
FB FB gold for five of silver, & therefore the merchants who bring gold and silver come here
P from other very distant parts and change their silver with the gold of these people
TA and much merchandise, and it is a very great fair; and I tell you that they make great
R profit from it and great gain. And the inhabitants are not allowed to carry the gold out
of the country, but they wish the merchants to come there with silver to take it, bringing the
goods which they make for their needs. And the people of that country who bring their
FB gold to this market, you may know that none can go to their houses where they live
R VA to do them harm except those of the country; for they live in such very high & strong
FB FB R and strange and wild places and out of the way for fear of people. And therefore they hold
FB these markets in the said plain. And none knows where they live, because they wish that
FB with them no one goes there but them. And when one has gone riding down these
L two days journeys and a half, then one finds a great province which is toward midday
FB L and is on the borders of Indie, and this province is called Mien. And through it one
R goes fifteen days marches by very out of the way uninhabited places and through
TA many woods and great forests where there are elephants enough and unicorns enough
TA FB and many lions and other strange wild beasts in great plenty of all sorts. There are no
FB FB FB men nor dwellings, and so let us leave speaking to you of these strange wild forests, for
TA there is nothing to tell worthy of mention, and we will tell you a story of a country as
you will be able to hear it.

¹ VA,P: carayam